## Rankin's (Lawson's) Dragon, Black Earth Bearded Dragon *Pogona henrilawsoni*

Family: Agamidae

Locale: Australia, Central and northwestern Queensland

<u>Habitat</u>: Transition zone to semi-desert <u>Average Size</u>: SVL 13 cm, TL: 30 cm <u>Average Life Span</u>: 10-15 years

Activity: Diurnal

<u>Captive care</u>: ≥ 20 gal aquarium, substrate: sand (with undertank heat pad), or sand/soil/sphagnum moss mix, or paper towel; driftwood, shelter, basking light, screen cover (can be loose), shallow water dish (like to soak). Can be housed in

groups with more than one male (will establish dominance hierarchy). Some breeders prefer a bare bottom tank, especially for hatchlings.

Temperature: 80-85°F (26-29°C) with basking 90°F (32°C); 70°F at night

Lighting: Full spectrum light; incandescent for heat

<u>Diet</u>: Crickets (calcium/vitamin dusted), dubia roaches, mealworms, super worms (Zoophoba); finely chopped greens/mixed veggies. Cricket length should be about the distance between the lizard's eyes.

## Age specific care:

Hatchlings/juveniles: Appropriately sized crickets and mealworms, chopped greens (dusted daily), feed all will eat in 15 minute period. Do not leave uneaten crickets in cage.

Adult: Feed every 1-2 days; crickets (dust 2 feedings/week), meal worms, dubia roaches, super worms, dark leafy greens daily. Some prefer mealworms over crickets.

<u>Breeding</u>: Two month brumation at room temperature with lights off. Clutches of 5-18 eggs (2-3 weeks after breeding), up to 5 clutches per season (incubate at 28°C)

Temperament: Docile enough to hold.

Notes: Smallest of the eight bearded dragon (Pogona) species.

## References:

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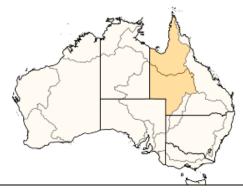
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Summerhayes, B. (2004). Black Earth Works: the lesser known Rankin's dragons. Reptile Care (July/August, 2004) 6: 51-53.

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## Range map:

http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/abrs/online-resources/fauna/afd/taxa/Pogona\_henrylawsoni